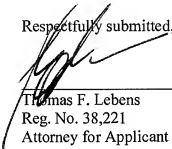


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1, 7, 14-16, 21-25 are herein amended and Claims 26-28 are herein newly added to better encompass the full scope and breadth of the present invention, notwithstanding the Applicant's belief that the Claims would have been allowable as originally filed as well as herein amended. The Applicant respectfully asserts that no claim has been narrowed within the meaning of *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.* (Fed.Cir. November 29, 2000). Therefore, reconsideration of the present application in light of the foregoing preliminary amendment and these remarks is respectfully requested. ***The Examiner is further cordially invited to telephone the undersigned for any reason which would advance allowance of the pending claims.*** In the event that any additional fees become due or payable, the Examiner is authorized to charge USPTO Deposit Account No. 06-1135 accordingly.

Dated: 9/11/2008

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas F. Lebens
Reg. No. 38,221
Attorney for Applicant

Address all correspondence to:

Thomas F. Lebens
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY, LLP
120 South LaSalle, Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60603

Direct telephone inquiries to:

Thomas F. Lebens
(805) 781-2865